



#### **Did you know?**

Municipalities can receive technical assistance to evaluate and implement PAYT programs, and apply for grant funding for program start-up costs. Learn more at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/grants/smrp-grants.html>

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This information is available  
in alternate format by calling  
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## f a c t s h e e t

### **Pay-As-You-Throw Fast Facts**

*In a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) solid waste program, residents pay a per-unit fee for disposal of the solid waste that they generate. Another name for these programs is Save Money And Reduce Trash (SMART). MassDEP has found that PAYT/ SMART is the most effective mechanism for encouraging real waste reduction at the municipal level.*

- There are now 143 municipalities out of 351 in Massachusetts that have adopted this approach, about 40%. Looking at this from a household viewpoint, SMART/PAYT covers 20% of the total households in the state.<sup>1</sup> In each of these municipalities, solid waste tonnage was reduced by 25-50% through a combination of increased recycling, diversion to reuse, repair, donation, composting, and other methods of disposal.
- In CY2013 the average solid waste generated per household in SMART/PAYT municipalities was 1106 lbs, only 63% of the 1754 lbs per household average generated in municipalities without SMART/PAYT programs.<sup>2</sup>
- According to the US Census there are 2,500,000 households in MA. If the remaining 80% of the households in the state had a SMART/PAYT as incentive to reduce their waste, reducing their trash generation to the average seen in existing SMART/PAYT municipalities, it would reduce the statewide trash by over 650,000 tons per year!<sup>3</sup>
- The projected 650,000 tons per year of solid waste that could be avoided if the all MA municipalities implemented SMART/PAYT programs represents over \$45 million in potential savings by municipalities, assuming an average disposal cost of \$70 per ton.

#### **Additional Information**

Visit the MassDEP web site:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/reduce/pay-as-you-throw-payt.html>

<sup>1</sup> PAYT households served number was extracted from MassDEP PAYT database. Where there was no data on the number of households served, the statewide average (70%) of total households in a SMART/PAYT municipality was used. U.S. Census figure of 2,500,000 was used for the total number of households in the Commonwealth.

<sup>2</sup> The average pounds per year per household disposed of by PAYT municipalities is 1106 according to CY13 data submitted to DEP on the annual Waste and Recycling Survey required by the DEP grant program.

<sup>3</sup> Calculation  $648,000 = .80 * 2500000 * (1754 - 1106) / 2000$